

Message Text

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42

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 AID-20 DPW-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-14

DRC-01 /165 W

----- 077998

R 181045Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9079

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SIAGON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

/USDEC JEC PARIS 1393

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 2789

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PL, PFOR, VS, VN

SUBJECT: POLISH REQUEST FOR US INTERVENTION ON
BEHALF POLDEL

REF: SAIGON 6454

1. SUMMARY. DIRECTOR KINAST OF DEPARTMENT III,
POLISH MFA, CALLED IN DCM TODAY TO REQUEST THAT THE
US, AS A SIGNATORY OF THE PARIS AGREEMENTS, USE ITS
INFLUENCE TO IMPROVE CONDITION FOR POLDEL IN SAIGON.
PARTY DAILY TTYBUNA LUDU PRINTED SHARP ATTACK ON
GVN ACCUSING IT OF SABOTAGING AGREEMENT AND ASKING
TO TURN ICCS INTO "POLITICAL INSTRUMENT IN THE
SERVICE OF THE THIEU ADMINISTRATION." END SUMMARY.

2. KINAST STATED POLISH GOVERNMENT IS "DEEPLY
CONCERNED" OVER CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH POLDEL FORCED
TO WORK IN SAIGON. HE CITED INCREASING CAMPAIGN
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AGAINST POLDEL BEING CONDUCTED BY THE SAIGON

AUTHORITIES AND PROVIDED THREE EXAMPLES BY WAY OF ILLUSTRATION.

3. FIRSTLY, DURING THE CAI LAY SCHOOL INVESTIGATION LAST MARCH, MEMBERS OF THE POLISH DELEGATION WERE PHYSICALLY ATTACKED BY AN ORGANIZED GROUP OF DEMONSTRATORS IN THE PRESENCE OF THE GVN POLICE WHO REMAINED TOTALLY PASSIVE. THIS THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF ITS MEMBERS FORCED THE ICCS TEAM TO STOP ITS INVESTIGATION. THE INCIDENT WAS USED AS THE PRETEXT FOR A SLANDEROUS PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE POLISH AND HUNGARIAN MEMBERS OF THE INVESTIGATING TEAM.

4. SECONDLY, WHILE THE GVN DOES NOT DENY THE WIDELY KNOWN FACT THAT MR. HOLOUB SUFFERED FROM MENTAL DISTURBANCES, IT HAS NEVERTHELESS USED HIS CASE AS A BASIS FOR A PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN DIRECTED AGAINST THE POLISH DELEGATION.

5. FINALLY, A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE POLDEL HAS BEEN CONDUCTED BY THE GVN OVER THE INCIDENT INVOLVING THE ALLEGED FIRING BY THE PRG ON THE VILLAGE OF SONG PHU ON MAY 4. A GVN OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN SAID THE POLISH AND HUNGARIAN DELEGATIONS WERE CONSCIOUSLY SABOTAGING THE PARIS AGREEMENTS AND SHOULD BE READY TO PACK AND LEAVE. THE POLISH DELEGATION WAS ALSO ATTACKED BY THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PRESS WHICH SAID THAT IF THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS SHOWED UP IN SONG PHU THEY WOULD BE "BEATEN TO DEATH". THESE PRESS ATTACKS AND STATEMENTS WERE MADE BEFORE THE CASE HAD EVEN BEEN PRESENTED TO THE COMMISSION.

6. ALL OF THE ABOVE CIRCUMSTANCES CAUSE CONCERN AND MAKE THE WORK OF THE POLISH DELEGATION VERY DIFFICULT. POLAND WOULD "LIKE TO BELIEVE" THAT THE US, AS SIGNER OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT, WOULD USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH THE GVN TO STOP THE CAMPAIGN AND RESTORE NORMAL WORKING CONDITIONS FOR THE POLDEL.

7 DCM REPLIED THAT WHILE WE COULD NOT ACCEPT THEIR
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VERSION OF EVENTS, POLISH REQUEST WOULD BE NOTED. IT WAS RECALLED THAT HOSTILITY OF VILLAGERS AT CAI LAY HAD BEEN DIRECTED AGAINST PRG REPRESENTATIVE WHO WAS PERSONALLY KNOWN TO THEM. NO MEMBER OF THE POLISH DELEGATION HAD BEEN HARMED. THE STATEMENT OF THE GVN SPOKESMAN FOLLOWING THE SONG PHU INCIDENT WAS INDEED STRONGLY WORDED, BUT REFLECTED THE EMOTION AROUSED BY A SECOND TRAGIC INSTANCE OF THE LOSS OF LIFE OF SCHOOL-

CHILDREN THROUGH CALLOUS PRG MILITARY ACTION. A FURTHER STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING FROM A MORE AUTHORITATIVE GVN SOURCE. IN ANY CASE, THE ATTITUDE OF THE GVN TOWARD THE POLISH DELEGATION AROSE OUT OF ITS CONVICTION THAT THE POLDEL WAS IMPEDING THE ICCS IN THE PROPER EXERCISE OF ITS INVESTIGATIVE FUNCTIONS. WE WOULD NEVERTHELESS TAKE NOTE OF THE MFA REQUEST AND TRANSMIT IT TO OUR AUTHORITIES. KINAST MERELY REMARKED THAT WE SEEMED TO BE RECEIVING DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF EVENTS IN VIETNAM AND TURNED THE CONVERSATION TO OTHER TOPICS.

8. UNDER THE HEADLINE "SAIGON SABOTAGES THE AGREEMENT," TRYBUNA LUDU ON MAY 17 PUBLISHED A SHARP ATTACK ON THE GVN. THE CAI LAY AND SONG PHU INCIDENTS ARE DESCRIBED AS "SHAMEFUL PROVOCATION" AND "DIRTY TRICKS" DESIGNED TO DIVERT THE ATTENTION OF THE WORLD PUBLIC FROM THE GLARING VIOLATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT BY THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT. THE ARTICLE SAYS THIEU "UNCEREMONIOUSLY APPEALED TO HIS ARMED FORCES" A FEW MONTHS AGO TO ATTACK THE LIBERATED TERRITORIES AND ANNOUNCED THAT GENERALELECTION WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE. SAIGON IS ACCUSED OF MILITARY OPERATION IN SEVERAL PROVINCES AND OF USING ICCS AIR COORIDORS IN AIR-FORCE ATTACK ON LOC NINH. IT IS FURTHERACCUSED OF REPRESSION OF PRG AND THIRD-FORCE ELEMENTS. THE ARTICLE QUOTES CONGRESSMAN DELLUMS LETTER TO THE WASHINGTON POST AND REVEREND WEBB'S LETTER TO SECRETARY KISSINGER AS EVIDENCE OF THE REPRESSIVE NATURE OF THE GVN.

9. THE GVN IS SAID TO BE FURTHERIMPEDING PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE BY BREAKING OFF THE TALKS IN LA CELLE ST. CLOUD AND HARASSING PRG REPRESENTATIVES ON THE BILATERAL MIXED CONFIDENTIAL

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MILITARY COMMISSION BY CUTTING OFF THEIR TELEPHONES, WATER AND ELECTRICITY, AND AIR TRANSPORT BETWEEN SAIGON AND LOC NINH. THE ARTICLE ALLEGES THAT THE GVN USED HELICOPTERS WITH ICCS MARKING IN MILITARY OPERATIONS AND THAT, IN THE COURSE OF THE CAI LAY INVESTIGATION, "THE CAR OF THE POLDEL WAS SMASHED UP AND AHUNGARIAN AND IRANIAN OFFICER WERE MAULED, WHICH PREVENTED THE INVESTIGATIONS FROM CONTINUING."

10. CITING THE PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST ICCS, THE ARTICLE SAYS THE GVN IS TRYING TO TURN THIS INTER-NATIONAL BODY INTO A POLITICAL INSTRUMENT IN THE SERVICE OF THE THIEU ADMINISTRATION, BUT THAT THESE ATTEMPTS HAVE NOT BEEN AND WILL NOT BE SUCCESSFUL.

11. THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES, " IN THIS SITUATION, THE
POSSIBILITIES OF THE ICCS CARRYING OUT ITSTASKS RESULTING
FROM THE PARIS AGREEMENT ARE QUESTIONABLE. THE COMMISSION
MUST NOT BE A TOOL OF ANY OF THE SIDES IN SOUTH VIETNAM;
MUCH LESS CAN IT WORK IN THE ATMOSPHERE OF PRESSURE AND
BLACKMAIL, UNDER CONDITIONS THREATENING THE SECURITY OF ITS
MEMBERS. IF THE COMMISSION IS TO CARRY OUT ITS
TASKS STEMMING FROM THE PARIS AGREEMENT, IT MUST BE GIVEN
APPROPRIATE CONDITIONS FOR WORK AND THE POSSIBILITY TO
ACT. THIS IS INDISPENSABLE FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE
WORK OF THE COMMISSION AS A WHOLE OF ITS INDIVIDUAL
DELEGATIONS."

12. COMMENT: THERE WAS NO PEJORATIVE REFERENCE
WHATEVER TO THE US IN EITHER THE ARTICLE OR THE
MFA DEMARCHE. ALTHOUGH BOTH REPRESENT DISTORTION
OF THE FACTS, THE CONCLUSION SEEMS RELATIVELY TAME AND
THERE IS ONLY THE MOST VEILED ALLUSION IN THE ARTICLE
TO THE POSSIBILITY OF POLISH WITHDRAWAL FROM THE
ICCS. END COMMENT.
DAVIES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, FOREIGN RELATIONS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, MILITARY AGREEMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974WARSAW02789
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740124-0245
From: WARSAW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740535/aaaabfey.tel
Line Count: 190
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SAIGON 6454
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLISH REQUEST FOR US INTERVENTION ON BEHALF POLDEL
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, PL, VS, VN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005